



Welcome to Carrillo, Kindergarten!

Hello and welcome to the 2024- 2025 school year! My name is Olsen Torres and I am so honored and excited to be your child's Kindergarten teacher. I was born and raised in Tucson. I deeply love the desert and all the nature we get to connect to here. I have a BFA in Theatre Arts with a minor in Shakespeare Studies from Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon. Before my career in education, I worked backstage in professional theatre as a Stage Manager for a decade. I spent many years working at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and eventually moved back home to work with Arizona Theatre Company here in Tucson. I enjoy riding bikes, connecting with plants, playing music, taking care of my garden, and cooking.

I have spent the last two years working in Kindergarten classrooms as an instructional aide while completing my Masters in Elementary Education at NAU. I was extremely lucky to be paired with a master Kindergarten teacher, Celina Morales, as my mentor during this time. I can truly say that I have learned from the best - Mrs. Morales has 25 years of experience in the field and is the Kindergarten team lead here at Carrillo. I am familiar and confident with the Carrillo rhythms, routines, procedures and culture after having spent the last school year as Mrs. Morales' Kindergarten aide. I am so grateful to be able to begin my teaching career at Carrillo - I love it here.

I am passionate about creating a classroom environment built on respect, collaboration, creativity, and compassion. Our classroom will be filled with art, books, plants, poems, music, songs, and so much love and learning. I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you this school year.

Please review the following information:

Newsletters: Newsletters will be sent home every Monday in the homework folder. I will provide information on weekly and monthly events in the Newsletter.

Homework: Homework packets will be sent home every Monday and turned in on Fridays. Your child will be provided with a homework folder.

Classroom Discipline Plan: Our classroom uses restorative practice and follows the TUSD code of conduct. A discipline plan form will be available for you and your child to read and sign during the first week of school.

Classroom Environment: It is cold in our room. If your child gets cold quickly, please make sure to provide a sweater to keep in their backpack for daily use.

Snacks: We will need snacks for our children. Since lunch is early in the morning, an afternoon snack is a must. If you can provide snacks for our classroom, that would be appreciated. Snacks include fruit, goldfish crackers, cheez- its, pretzels, graham crackers, granola bars, popcorn, chex mix, etc. Thank you!

School Hours: School begins at 8:35 a.m. and dismisses at 2:45 p.m. (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) Wednesday dismissal is at 1:45 p.m.

It is especially important that your child be at school and on time every day. Please try to plan appointments for after school as every minute counts. I have attached the district calendar for your records.

Extended Day: Extended day is our afterschool extension where your child can be enrolled for an additional hour and half in an extracurricular activity. The cost is \$100 per child and \$50 for each additional child. All fees are quarterly. If you have any other questions, please contact the office for help at (520) 225-1200.

Lunch: Lunch is available for all students. Please fill out a lunch form located in the cafeteria. These forms help fund our site so please take the time. Students will have 2 options for lunch and all choices will be sack lunches. All home lunches are welcome and suggested, if possible, for the first two weeks of school to help us all adjust to the routine of the cafeteria.

Volunteering: Please be aware that the first four weeks of school are geared toward building relationships between student and teacher. Following that period, I am happy to welcome volunteers in our classroom. Please reach out if you would like to volunteer.

Communication: I will send out ClassDojo information during the first week. This is an app for you and I to stay in close contact. Keep an eye out for more information.

Supplies: Please see the attached supply list.

It is essential to build parent-teacher relationships. I consider us a team in your child's education. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone, e-mail, or on class dojo. Let's get this year started!

Best,

Olsen Torres

(520) 225-1200

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